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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 21, 1998

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MISSOULA EVENTS WILL CELEBRATE ROE V. WADE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

MISSOULA--

A film series, art exhibit and press conference will kick off this week in Missoula to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Roe V. Wade.

The 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that established women's constitutional right to abortion will mark its 25th year Thursday, Jan. 22. The day's activities begin at noon with a press conference in the Missoula County Courthouse. Speakers will include pro-choice activist Judy Smith, Vivian Brook of Catholics for a Free Choice, state representatives Jon Ellingson and Diane Sands, and Deb Frandsen, former director of Planned Parenthood in Missoula.

Also on Thursday, an art event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Blue Mountain Clinic, 610 N. California. The Blue Empress Art Exhibit and Celebration of Roe V. Wade will feature works with the theme of celebrating reproductive freedom for sale by local artists. A portion of proceeds from the event will go to the Blue Mountain Clinic.

Two show times are scheduled for a film series and accompanying panel discussion on reproductive freedom. The first showing will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the New Crystal Theatre, 515 Higgins Ave. The second takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in UM's Gallagher Business Building, Room 122. The New Crystal Theatre showing is \$4; UM's is free of charge.

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The series features three films: "The Fragile Promise of Choice," a historical perspective of the threat to choice that includes an interview with Kalispell physician's assistant Susan Cahill; "Late Term Abortion/Dateline," one woman's story about a wanted pregnancy gone awry; and "From Danger to Dignity," which chronicles the fight to change abortion laws and profiles underground networks created to provide safe illegal abortions.

A panel discussion following the films will include clergy, health care providers, students and legislators.

The film series is sponsored by The University of Montana Women's Center and other community organizations.

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